

Spokane County Conservation District

Other Accomplishments

SRF Program: Our State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, which administers low-interest loans to purchase eligible direct seed equipment, has expanded to cover 11 counties, and is now able to finance combines for harvesting.

Development of Forestry Education Workshops: The SCCD Forestry department produced, or participated in, over ten educational workshops. The topics included forestry management, urban forestry, and arboriculture.



At a pruning workshop, attendees were shown an example of bark being placed too high on a tree trunk.

Watershed Projects: In 2008 the SCCD evaluated and coordinated six culvert replacements and restored nearly six miles of headwater stream habitat to native trout, as part of the Family, Forest, Fish Passage Program (3F2P).

2008 Feature Accomplishment

Town of Rockford Reservoir & Riparian Improvements

Resource Challenge

The Town of Rockford was in need of a funding source to replace its reservoir which was aging and inadequate for future growth. The town, with the aid of its local engineering consultant and the WRIA 56 Implementation Committee, submitted a grant application to the Department of Ecology.



Charlie Peterson installs a riparian planting along Rock Creek.

Project Summary and Results

Ecology approved the application and provided grant funding of more than \$800,000 to the small community. A condition of the grant was that Rockford also had to participate in a stream bank restoration and habitat enhancement project.

Rockford is looking to replace their existing 110,000-gallon reservoir with a 200,000-gallon reservoir; they also want to improve riparian habitat along several sections of Rock Creek in town. The riparian project will improve the riparian function, increase wildlife habitat, and stabilize stream bank erosion on a section of Rock Creek.

In April 2008, the District installed a riparian planting of over 3,000 plants of varying sizes on the right bank of Rock Creek, including an irrigation system. This portion of the project was successful and is being monitored. The entire project is anticipated to be complete by September 30, 2008.

The community has embraced the project and has raised over \$11,000 as matching funds. Town officials hope to receive continued support from citizens, businesses, and private landowners along the creek.

Key Project Partners

Town of Rockford, Bruce Carmack, Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc., Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife

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Board of Supervisors:
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Jaki Shrauger, Member
Mary Sullivan, Member

More Work To Do

Landowners:

- In the past seven years, Spokane County has seen an increase from 33,000 to 55,000 in those with 1-100 acres. SCCD will be available to help these landowners with a variety of natural resource issues.

Firewise Program:

- SCCD is continuing to work with several homeowner associations in the county to apply Firewise principals to their landscapes.

Farm Forum:

- The District participates in Farm Forum by sponsoring educational seminars and workshops during the year.